SUBJECTS.

FINANCIAL.

(Nos. 1 to 3.)

SUBJECT No. 1.

Grant of pension to menial servants as in the case of those in the superior service.

Mr. P. Murugesam Pillai, Audi Dravida Abhivridhi Sangham, Bangalore.

(NOTE.—In the absence of the mover, Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer was permitted to speak on the subject.)

It was requested that those in the menial service might be granted pension as in the case of those in the superior service. Though a menial has put in 30 years' service or more and gets a pay of Rs. 30, he gets only a pension of Rs. 7, whereas an official in superior service gets half pension after retirement. The scale of pension now granted for a peon on retirement is Rs. 5 if he retires on a pay of Rs. 10, Rs. 6 on a pay of Rs. 15 and Rs. 7 on a pay of Rs. 20 and upwards. This is a great hardship to the menial in receipt of a pay of Rs. 30, as thereby his income is suddenly, reduced from Rs. 30 to Rs. 7. A menial is not again permitted to retire after the age of superannuation, *viz.*, 55 years of age prescribed in the case of officers of the superior service. The facilities afforded to employees of superior service should be extended to men in inferior service as well.

The minimum pay of Rs. 11 now fixed for menials employed in the Bangalore and Mysore Cities is very low. Considering the high cost of living in these two cities, this minimum should be raised.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishnaiga endorsed Mr. Gopalaswami Iyer's proposal with a modification that three-fourths pension may be given in the case of those drawing a pay of Rs. 20 and more on condition that they have put in approved service. If this condition is enforced, the menials would try and do their work to the satisfaction of the superiors. In order to recruit good and reliable men for inferior service, the Government should encourage such people by granting three-fourths pension on the above condition.

Mr. Purushothamandagiri Gosai said that officers' drawing Rs. 1,000 and more and even the Members of Council and the Chief Judge drawing Rs. 2,000 and above get a pension of Rs. 500 after they are retired. Menials drawing small salaries generally have some subsidiary occupations to supplement the pay they get while in service. When such is the case how a menial drawing Rs. 30 and getting a pension of Rs. 7 after retirement can maintain himself and his family in his old age is a matter requiring consideration. With no pension inducement, it will not be possible to recruit the proper kind of men for menial service.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry.—The menials work very hard and the Government is not justified in giving them a different treatment. Their minimum salary also is very low and this should be increased.

The Dewan said that the arrangement adopted in the case of the menials is to fix a maximum for pensions and the rates are the same as those in the Government of

India services and it is only in some exceptional cases that this maximum is raised to Rs. 8 by the Government of India Rules. The request for giving half pension to menials cannot be granted ; but the question of raising the maximum to Rs. 8 will be noted for consideration.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry.—Government should have some data to fix the pension of menials. Menials have occasions even to risk their lives in the discharge of Government work and it is only fair that the men's services should be adequately remunerated. Government should also take into consideration the conditions of the present standard of living of such people and the pension so fixed.

Mr. A. Ananthaiya.—If as the Dewan was pleased to say, half pension could not be granted to menials, he wished to put before the Government another proposition for consideration. Till the menials reached a pay of Rs. 15, Government may pay the premia due to insure the lives of these menials for a policy of Rs. 300 and when their pay rises to more than Rs. 15 the premia should be required to be paid by the men themselves. At the time of retirement the bonus due on the policy and the gratuity and pension due to the men would go a long way to meet their requirements in their old age. With such facilities, no menial in Government service would think of leaving it.

The Dewan said that that was not possible.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer.—If Government saw no reason to modify the existing scale of pension granted to peons, Government should, at least, grant the same rate of pension as is given now in the Palace by His Highness the Maharaja and that the existing starting pay should be increased.

The Dewan said that the matter would be enquired into ; but that it was not then possible to grant the request.

SUBJECT NO. 2.

Reduction of pay of high paid officials instead of that of low paid ones.

Mr. Sahukar Veerabhadrappa, Chitaldrug Taluk.

Mr. Sahukar Veerabhadrappa.—The services of many low paid officials have been dispensed with owing to financial stringency, whereas the pay of high paid officers continues to be on the same scale as before and the number of such officers is also increasing. It is prayed that the number and pay of high paid officials may be reduced. Retrenchment is restricted only to ill-paid officials, though the saving effected thereby is very small.

The Dewan said that the inconvenience caused by retrenchment orders was being considered by Government.

SUBJECT NO. 3.

Inclusion in the State Budget of the surplus income of the Bangalore Cantonment.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry, Krishnarajpete Taluk.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry.—The surplus income of the Bangalore Cantonment area is not being placed at the disposal of the State regularly. It is therefore requested that arrangements may be made to include in the State Budget a statement of receipts and expenditure of the Assigned Tract, working out the surplus due to the State.

The Dewan pointed out that this subject was dealt with in his Address.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry said that his request was only for showing surplus revenue to be realised from the Civil and Military Station in the State Budget for the information of the members of the Assembly and that the revenue should be realised regularly year after year without being allowed to accumulate into arrears.